



MI-CW3310

Michigan Crop Weather

August 16, 2010

Hot with Scattered Precipitation

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 15, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation ranged from 0.36 inches in the eastern Upper Peninsula to 1.47 inches in the central Lower Peninsula. Temperatures ranged from 9 to 10 degrees above normal in the Upper Peninsula and 7 to 10 degrees in the Lower Peninsula. Hot and humid weather was the norm again this past week. Hot temperatures continued all week, with some scattered rain. The few rain showers were welcomed this week as they helped some crops mature, but the moisture did not last with the above average temperatures. Activities for the week included preparing for fall harvest. “Weather was warm and muggy with just enough rain to keep crops damp. It was a difficult week for making hay or trying to make spray applications. Crops are all progressing well, and providing there are no major disease or insect problems, all should make it to maturity now regardless of rain or frost possibilities,” stated one reporter in southeast Lower peninsula.

Field Crops

Seasonal summer temperatures and high humidity were the major factors affecting field crops during the week. Fields across Michigan received needed rain showers early in the week. The evidence of moisture was short lived as the warm weather dried fields up quickly. One reporter indicated that while the precipitation was appreciated, it was “not enough to sustain crops”. **Corn** maturity continued to progress. Some fields had indications of heat stress. Farmers made plans to begin silage harvest this next week. **Soybeans** were filling pods with no major disease or insect problems reported. **Alfalfa** seeding took place during the week. Many have been pleased with this year’s overall quality of hay crop. Early **dry bean** harvest started in Montcalm County and was expected to start soon in other areas. Most of the plants were still drying down. **Barley** and **oat** harvest neared completion.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/15/10

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	12	29	55	4
Subsoil	12	31	54	3

Crop condition for week ending 08/15/10

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	1	4	17	52	26
Barley	0	13	30	43	14
Corn	1	5	18	44	32
Dry beans	4	13	28	37	18
Pasture	3	6	25	45	21
Soybeans	1	4	20	48	27

Fruit

Soils were moist in the Grand Rapids area, but soils remained dry around the rest of the state. **Apples** ranged from 57 to 69 mm in the northwest; harvest of Zestar apples has begun in the southwest, southeast and west central regions. Growers are concerned about obtaining good color with the warm nighttime temperatures in the northwest and Grand Rapids regions. European red mite numbers were building in the southwest and west central regions. **Peach** harvest continued around the state. European **plums** ranged from 32 mm in the northwest to 2 inches in length and 1.75 inches in diameter in the southeast. Harvest continued in the southwest and has started in the Grand Rapids and west central regions. Growth continued to be poor for **strawberries** due to lack of rain and potato leafhoppers. **Pears** ranged from 32 mm in the northwest to 2.5 inches in diameter in the southeast. Pear psylla nymph numbers were increasing in the southwest. Harvest of **blueberries** continued. Many growers in the southwest were near completion. High temperatures decreased quality in the west central. **Grapes** ranged from having green fruit in the northwest to veraison in the southeast and southwest regions. Downy mildew infections continued to be seen in the southwest, southeast, and northwest regions. Harvest of summer **raspberry** continued in the southwest and southeast regions.

Vegetables

Disease problems have remained high due to continued warm weather and humidity. Harvesting continued across the state. In the southwest, it appears to be about two-weeks ahead of normal. In the Grand Rapids area, harvest began for **radishes** and **lettuce**. Other crops being harvested include, **onions**, **winter squash**, **cabbage**, **yellow squash**, **celery**, **zucchini** for fresh and processing, **cucumbers** for **pickles**, **sweet corn**, **potatoes**, **snap beans**, **peppers**, **watermelon**, **tomatoes** for fresh and processing, and **eggplant**. Quality was good in tomato fields, aside from mites and other various foliar diseases. Eggplant looked good but has some verticillium present in the Grand Rapids area. **Broccoli** and **cauliflower** continued progressing, however, it has been a tough summer for these crops due to warmer temperatures. Insect activity has been heavy. Vine crops, such as **pumpkins** and **fall squash**, continued sizing. Pumpkins were beginning to ripen. **Melons** looked good, however cucumber beetles, Phytophythora and powdery mildew symptoms were evident. Cucumber growers were struggling with downy mildew and were following downy mildew control guidelines. In the Macomb county area, growers observed browning foliage from spider mite activity, but only in isolated areas. On muck soils, **carrots**, **beets**, **turnips**, **parsnips**, and **leeks** were growing well. Potatoes were nearing harvest in the southeast, with growers applying pre-harvest herbicides. **Asparagus** ferns look good, however disease pressure has been very high due to high temperatures and heavy dew.

Crop progress for week ending 08/15/10

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	87	83	77	86
All hay, third cutting	41	29	23	34
Apples, harvested	6	4	4	1
Barley, harvested	85	68	NA	NA
Blueberries, harvested	88	80	73	72
Corn, dough	76	50	19	51
Corn, dent	27	8	0	8
Corn, mature	1	0	0	NA
Dry beans, blooming	95	94	76	92
Dry beans, setting pods	86	65	25	74
Oats, harvested	94	86	36	70
Peaches, harvested	50	47	28	39
Potatoes, harvested	4	2	12	12
Soybeans, blooming	95	92	85	96
Soybeans, setting pods	87	71	53	80

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/15/10 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2010	2009	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	86	60		1,724	1,278		1.15	1.85	4.44	17.23		
Marquette	86	61		1,688	1,158		1.15	1.85	4.44	17.23		
Stephenson	94	61		1,964	1,465		0.09	1.84	3.15	17.41		
Western UP	94	54	9	1,732	1,229	1,409	1.10	1.84	3.97	16.95	14.35	3.69
Cornell	89	63		1,877	1,338		0.28	0.61	2.86	16.59		
Sault St Marie	85	59		1,745	1,144		0.53	1.85	2.37	11.06		
Eastern UP	89	57	10	1,704	1,155	1,221	0.36	0.93	2.37	15.01	13.53	3.53
Beulah	88	65		2,042	1,521		0.01	0.87	2.34	14.27		
Lake City	89	60		1,943	1,439		0.14	0.75	3.80	18.44		
Old Mission	89	64		1,965	1,401		0.53	1.24	2.96	13.86		
Pellston	88	59		1,872	1,318		1.29	2.06	2.53	14.75		
Northwest	89	59	10	1,913	1,378	1,592	0.40	1.06	2.55	13.99	12.71	3.11
Alpena	88	62		1,900	1,415		0.98	1.15	4.18	15.81		
Houghton Lake	87	61		2,038	1,453		0.39	0.77	4.05	15.20		
Rogers City	88	65		1,789	1,399		0.95	2.14	4.84	18.22		
Northeast	89	61	10	1,941	1,417	1,543	0.71	1.22	4.05	16.95	12.81	3.12
Fremont	93	64		2,192	1,647		0.26	0.67	1.49	10.20		
Hart	89	65		2,095	1,564		0.64	0.98	3.01	14.58		
Muskegon	90	68		2,367	1,785		0.86	0.87	2.90	13.88		
West Central	93	64	10	2,183	1,640	1,741	0.66	0.90	2.60	13.28	12.82	3.60
Alma	87	67		2,263	1,707		2.42	2.56	3.19	19.31		
Big Rapids	88	65		2,119	1,570		1.40	1.55	2.51	16.88		
Central	91	64	8	2,185	1,630	1,812	1.47	1.85	2.77	15.44	13.79	3.64
Bad Axe	88	66		2,131	1,561		0.19	0.29	1.88	17.30		
Pigeon	88	64		2,111	1,539		0.34	0.58	1.82	13.78		
Saginaw	88	66		2,366	1,733		1.72	1.82	2.98	14.15		
Standish	87	64		2,067	1,537		1.47	1.74	3.84	19.46		
East Central	88	64	8	2,131	1,590	1,799	1.09	1.24	2.65	15.95	12.58	2.93
Fennville	91	65		2,238	1,727		1.23	1.28	5.18	23.41		
Grand Rapids	89	67		2,478	1,922		0.97	0.97	3.27	21.40		
Holland	91	67		2,436	2,005		0.68	1.18	4.55	28.74		
South Bend, IN	91	70		2,504	2,063		0.02	0.40	3.88	19.46		
Watervliet	90	67		2,384	1,875		0.83	1.16	4.18	18.64		
Southwest	92	54	8	2,376	1,891	1,955	0.76	1.10	4.11	20.46	14.47	3.18
Belding	89	64		2,197	1,659		0.58	0.87	1.81	15.71		
Coldwater	91	64		2,410	1,937		0.30	0.55	3.32	16.64		
Lansing	89	65		2,401	1,816		0.39	0.40	1.88	13.90		
South Central	91	63	7	2,305	1,793	1,933	0.70	0.84	2.93	17.86	14.38	3.36
Detroit	91	69		2,577	2,049		0.33	0.33	4.55	18.94		
Flint	93	64		2,373	1,767		0.24	0.31	0.60	13.44		
Romeo	91	64		2,282	1,772		0.10	0.13	0.90	13.09		
Tipton	89	64		2,340	1,831		0.69	0.72	5.03	20.72		
Toledo, OH	91	67		2,586	2,080		1.79	2.05	6.35	20.76		
Southeast	94	52	8	2,380	1,903	1,918	0.56	0.62	3.07	18.01	13.87	3.12

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.